

## La Porte Police Department

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## La Porte Police Encourage Residents to Look Out for the Safety of Senior Citizens

One of the most valuable resources in any society is the high-level of wisdom possessed by its long-standing members. Yet, as with any precious gift, such residents are typically a scarce resource and should be recognized and appreciated for their worth. With 6.8% of the City's population being 65 years of age or older, the City of La Porte proves no exception to this rule. Therefore the La Porte Police Department reminds residents that all community members owe it to the elder population to care for their well-being.

Undoubtedly, the needs of elder-citizens can vary greatly. While many seniors lead a highly-active lifestyle, including traveling, exercise, volunteering efforts, and other endeavors, others are relegated to more stationary activities. Such instances might be due to medical conditions which make them highly dependent on friends, family, and community members. To this end, it is difficult to provide one blanket solution for all crime prevention problems, however, as a community there are ways to get involved and help these citizens.

While reminders lock doors and windows may be applicable to most residents, older community members tend to be quite diligent in these areas. However where elders are most susceptible falls in the arena of fraud. Scams, unethical sales techniques, and technological manipulation are ways in which criminals frequently take advantage of the older members of a community.

To combat these effects, take the opportunity to visit with a senior member of La Porte, and utilize the privilege to its utmost potential. Remind them that checks received in the mail are susceptible to theft or loss and, alternatively, could easily be deposited through a bank account via automatic deposit. Educate them on ways utility bills might also be set up in an automatic draft format, based on either a fixed or specific amount. When there is a need for senior citizens to make grocery or retail store visits, offer to be a travel companion and encourage avoiding salespersons or solicitors who are clearly not part of a recognized organization. Finally, upon returning home, review some of the common scam and fraud methods which typically target senior citizens, such as home repair gimmicks, telephone/internet fraud tricks, so-called improved healthcare hoaxes, and medical equipment fraud. Another option might involve visiting the La Porte Neighborhood Center, located at 526 San Jacinto St., where meals and various wellness activities are furnished for senior residents.

Certainly there exist many other tips and techniques to look after our elder community members which citizens may be aware of. Each and every area inhabitant could easily take the time to convey an idea or two to those who have already given us so much. For more information on crime prevention tips, please contact the La Porte Police Department at 281-471-3162, or log onto the agency's Support Service Division's section located along the agency's website at www.laportetx.gov/police/support/division\_information.asp. Additionally, the City of La Porte's Senior Services Center provides a wide-variety of services and activities. They can be reached at 281-470-9897, or by logging onto www.ci.la-porte.tx.us/gov/parks/seniors/default.asp